

COURTS AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Cjus 250 01 084

10:00 - 10:50 MWF

Stubbs 218

I. Contact Information:

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Office hours: 0900 to 1000 hours MWF & 0930 to 1030 hours TR

II Course prerequisite/Corequisite

Cjus 101 or approval by the instructor or department head

III. Course description:

This course will consist of an examination of the court component of the American Criminal Justice System. Emphasis is on structure, roles, and function of the courts and their relationship to other system components and social institutions.

IV. Course objectives and outcomes:

The student will become intricately familiar with local, state, and federal court systems in America. The student will likewise develop an understanding of the interlocking relationship between the courts and all other components of the criminal justice system. An understanding of the centrality of the court system to the criminal justice system will be demonstrated by each student.

V. Course Topics:

Courts, crime, and controversy

Law and crime

Federal courts

State and local courts

The dynamics of justice - the adversary system

Prosecutors/Defense attorneys

Judges

Defendants and victims

Arrest to Arraignment/bail

Evidence

Plea bargaining - bargain basement justice

Trials and juries

Sentencing

Appellate courts

VI. Instructional methods and Activities:

This class is neither on-line or a hybrid course! Class attendance is strongly encouraged. Additionally, University policy is that a student's nonexcused absences cannot exceed

10% of regularly scheduled classes. This class meets 45 times during this semester. Therefore, a student's nonexcused absences cannot exceed 4. (See section VIII-B for more details on attendance). Instructional methods will be focused on classroom activities. (See Section IX for a weekly detail of activity). The instructor will utilize lectures, audio/visual aids, outside guest speakers, and other types of instructional activities as may be deemed appropriate. There will be no research paper. Some outside research may be required on timely court cases including, but not limited to, cases discussed in the text.

VII. Evaluation and grade assignment:

There will be several unit exams and one final examination in the class. Unit exams will be announced at least one week in advance. The final exam will be administered at the regular scheduled during the week of December 1, 2008. All exams including the final test will have 100 points. Final grades will be posted on-line for students to view via the Arrow system. Final grade averages and corresponding letter grades will be as follows:

90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
Below 60	F

Mid-term grades will be posted on Arrow. Mid-term grades indicate a student's status at mid-semester only and do not indicate the final performance outcome of a student.

VIII. Class policies and procedures:

At a minimum, all policies stated in the current *ULM Student Policy Manual & Organizational Handbook* should be followed (See http://www.ulm.edu/student_policy)

Additional information includes:

Textbook: AMERICA'S COURTS AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM(8th) ed. By Neubauer; published by Thomason/Wadsworth ISBN# 0-534-62892-3. Recording devices are permitted during regular class time but not during test. No cell phones permitted during testing.

Attendance Policy: Class attendance is required! Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. Excused absences will be for legitimate and documented purposes only and must be supported by court orders, physicians excuses, military orders, etc. Not sufficient are statements from parents, spouses, roommates, or others attesting to your not feeling well on a particular day.

Make-up policy: Those who miss examinations due to verifiable, unavoidable reasons may be allowed to take the missed exam during a time specified by the instructor. The make-up exam may or may not be the same exam that was originally administered.

Academic Integrity: Faculty and students must observe the ULM published policy on academic dishonesty.

Course Evaluation Policy: At a minimum, students are expected to complete the on-line course evaluation.

Student Services: Information about ULM student services, such as student success center, counseling center, special needs, and student health services is available at the Student Services web site.

Emergency Services: All students who anticipate any type of emergency should make the instructor aware of any action the instructor should take. For example, any student who may anticipate emergencies associated with a medical condition should indicate what action s/he wishes to be taken. Otherwise medical emergency personnel will be summoned to the scene of the emergency.

Course Specific Policy: Students who are criminal justice majors are reminded that they must have a grade of C or better in all Criminal Justice classes.

IX. Tentative Course Schedule:

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVISE THIS SCHEDULE AS NEEDED!

Week of	Topic
August 18	Courts, Crime, and Controversy
August 25	Law and Crime
September 1	Federal Courts
September 8	State and Local Courts
September 15	The Dynamics of Justice
September 22	Prosecutors
September 29	Defense Attorneys
October 6	Judges
October 13	Defendants and Victims
October 20	Arrest to Arraignment
October 27	Evidence
November 3	Plea Bargaining
November 10	Trials and Juries
November 17	Sentencing
November 24	Appellate Courts
December 1	Final Test